(b) A formal agreement has since been signed by the Government with their Associations, which is under implementation.

Security belt along Western borders

251. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create security belt along the Western borders with Pakistan without delay;

(b) whether Government also propose to seek assistance of Army to help the civil administration in the Mand area;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure speedy implementation of these plans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Government have no proposal in this regard under consideration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Calcutta Corporation Elections

252. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been apprised of the unprecedental violence and rigging in recent Calcutta Corporation elections by the ruling party in West Bengal in connivance with the anti-social elements and hired goondas;

(b) whether the Central Government have sought any report from the State Government about the charges; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold an independent inquiry into the matter and cancel the elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government of India.

Postage stamp on the birth centenary of late Shri T. B. Cuncha

253. SRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to release postage stamp on the birth centenary of late Shri T. B. Cunha, the great Goan Nationalist and Freedom Fighter on the 2nd April, 1991; and

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from the Goa Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received for the issue of a special stamp and was placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee for consideration at its meeting held on 6-8-90. The proposal could not figure among those recommended by the Committee.

Steamer service between Bombay and Goa

254. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to resume the Steamer Service between Goa and Bombay after this monsoon;

(b) if so, the number of vessels to be commissioned from S.C.I.; and

(c) whether any private operators have been shown any willingness to operate hovercraft or catamaran on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) A decision is yet to be taken in this regard.

(c) Yes, Sir. Union Government had cleared applications from four private parties for acquisition of vessels for operating passenger services between Bombay and Goa. Two of these sanctions for acquisition of two Catamaran vessels are still valid.

Use of Telecast Media to educate the rural masses

255. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government so far to use the telecast media to educate the rural masses in the country on the application of modern technologies in day-today- living?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Doordarshan regularly telecasts for the benefit of rural audience programmes in different regional languages aimed at educating and informing them about the improved methods of agriculture and irrigation, health care and other aspects of daily life with a view to help them to improve their living conditions. These programmes are mounted to promote a more rational and scientific approach toward life, and to counter-act prevalent superstitions.

Assamese speaking Station Director in All India Radio and Doordarshan in Assam

256. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the stations of All India Radio and Doordarshan in Assam, there is no Assamese speaking Station Director;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the number of non-Bengali speaking Directors in the All India Radio and T.V. centres of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) The post of Station Director in All India Radio and Director in Doordarshan Kendra is a supervisory post and it is not considered necessary for the Station Director/Director to know the language of the area although the knowledge of the language does give some added advantage.

Proposal to make T.V. Serials on the great saint of Assam Shankradeva

257. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals to make T.V. serials on the great saint of Assam Sankaradeva, and one on the 42 movement in Assam are pending in the Department;

(b) if so, by when these proposals would be taken up by the doordarshan; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative what are the reasons therefor?